UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1878
24 April 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Indonesia, condemns killing of thousands of internally displaced persons at Kibeho camp in Rwanda; demands immediate end to atrocities.

+ Security Council establishes list of twelve candidates for Judges on International Tribunal for Rwanda.

+ Security Council welcomes transfer of responsibilities from Multinational Force to UNMIH; calls on Government and people of Haiti to help Mission help them, saying they bear primary responsibility for national reconstruction.

+ Secretary-General has meetings with President of Indonesia and heads of United Nations agencies in Jakarta; addresses Bandung Conference commemorative meeting.

+ Russian Federation expresses strong support for indefinite and unconditional extension of NPT; Iraq says one State has refused to accede to Treaty while acquiring nuclear weapons.

+ Three French peace-keepers killed in accidental explosion while defusing ammunition in Sarajevo; UNPROFOR honour guard comes under fire at city airport.

+ Prosecutor of International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia names Bosnian Serb leaders as suspects in war crimes investigation.

+ Secretary-General says retention of full-time Special Representative for Somalia cannot be justified.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed shock and horror at the indiscriminate killing of thousands of internally displaced persons at the Kibeho camp in Rwanda. The Secretary-General condemned that action in the strongest terms, and demanded an immediate end to the atrocities. He said he

For information media—not an official record

was sending an envoy to Kigali to deliver a personal message to the Rwandese Government.

The killings occurred on Saturday, after some internally displaced persons tried to break out of the Rwandese Army cordon around the Kibeho camp. Troops opened fire to control the break-out, killing many of them. A second attempted break-out three hours later led to heavy retaliatory firing by the Army. Special Representative Shahryar Khan put the number of casualties from the firing and the resulting stampedes at 5,000 killed and 600 to 700 wounded. However, the spokesman stressed that those figures were rough estimates, and noted that some of the dead had been buried before United Nations personnel arrived on the scene.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has been evacuating the wounded for medical treatment, while its engineers have been repairing roads into the camp. The Mission has provided 80 vehicles for displaced persons wishing to leave the area, and peace-keepers have taken some 400 children under their protection. Non-governmental organizations have also provided humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata condemned the killings at Kibeho and urged the Government to ensure that survivors were treated humanely. She said the brutality of the action was disproportionate to any objective of moving displaced people from camps. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has redeployed field officers to monitor the Kibeho area and to facilitate the return of displaced people to their homes.

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The Security Council today established a list of twelve candidates for Judges on the International Tribunal for Rwanda, in accordance with Article 12 of the Statute of the Tribunal. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 889 (1995).

The following twelve nominees received the required nine votes from members of the Council: Lennart Aspegren of Sweden; Kevin Haugh of Ireland; Leity Kama of Senegal; T.H. Khan of Bangladesh; Wamalungwe Mainga of Zambia; Yakov Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation; Navanethem Pillay of South Africa; Edilbert Razafindralambo of Madagascar; William Sekule of the United Republic of Tanzania; Anne Marie Stoltz of Norway; Jiri Toman of the Czech Republic and Switzerland; and Lloyd Williams of Jamacia and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

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The Security Council today welcomed the transfer of responsibilities from the Multinational Force to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) on 31 March. In a statement by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council shared the Secretary-General's view that the transfer was a milestone in international efforts to bring peace and stability to Haiti.

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However, the Council said much remained to be done to institutionalize democracy in Haiti. It reiterated the Secretary-General's call for the people of Haiti and their leaders to help UNIMH help them. While the Mission would help the Haitian Government sustain a secure and stable environment, a functioning and fair justice system and the early deployment of an effective police force were central to Haiti's long-term stability.

The Government and people of Haiti bore the primary responsibility for the country's political, economic and social reconstruction, the Council continued. However, the sustained commitment of the international community was indispensable for long-term peace and stability. The Council underlined the importance of free, fair and secure elections for the democratic future of Haiti. It urged the Government to take all necessary steps to ensure the success of the elections, and in particular to register as many voters as possible. The Council also emphasized that the Presidential elections should take place on schedule before UNMIH's withdrawal in February 1996.

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Continuing his official visit to Indonesia, the Secretary-General today addressed a meeting commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Bandung Asia-Africa Conference. At that Conference, he said, countries from both continents had met to decide on their position in the international system, having become free of colonial occupation. They had refused to be part of the bipolar struggle, opting instead for an independent role in international affairs. Six years later, the Non-Aligned Movement had emerged as a political and economic force which transcended immediate regional interests.

The Secretary-General had a range of appointments over the weekend, including a meeting with President Soeharto. They discussed several issues, including United Nations peace-keeping, South-South cooperation and the question of East Timor. The President elaborated on Indonesia's initiative to facilitate a comprehensive agreement in the former Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General welcomed that initiative.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with representatives of the United Nations agencies in Indonesia, and stressed the importance of coordination between them. On Saturday, he addressed the Foreign Affairs Forum of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, and the National Youth Forum on Environment. He will leave Indonesia tomorrow to begin a five-day official visit to Australia.

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The Russian Federation firmly stands for an indefinite and unconditional extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told the 1995 Review and Extension Conference today. He said that rejecting that option would mean demolishing the foundation of international stability. Indefinite extension would not give the nuclear-weapon States a mandate to retain their arsenals indefinitely. It would, instead, mean a progressive movement towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and the Russian Federation was committed to that goal.

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The representative of Iraq, Wissam Al-Zahawi, said "one State" in the Middle East had refused to accede to the Treaty even as it was acquiring nuclear weapons with the assistance of a nuclear-weapon State. By taking military action against nuclear facilities in a nearby State that were under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, that State was attacking not only another country, but the Agency itself. The Security Council and the IAEA had repeatedly called on that State to open its facilities to a safeguard regime, but the international community had done nothing because one nuclear Power thought that State was entitled to possess nuclear weapons. The Conference should dedicate itself to achieving a time-table for complete nuclear disarmament and universality for the Treaty.

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Three French United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldiers were killed, and four were wounded, in Sarajevo on Saturday when some ammunition they were defusing exploded. An honour guard escorting the bodies of the three peace-keepers to an aircraft at the city's airport was fired at today. A United Nations spokesman described that incident as disgraceful.

Yesterday, a United Nations observation post near Doboj was attacked by Bosnian Serb forces. UNPROFOR requested a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air presence, and two aircraft were fired at while flying over the area.

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The Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia today announced that he was investigating the responsibility of the Bosnian Serb leadership for a wide range of war crimes. Justice Richard Goldstone said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, army commander Ratko Mladic, and former police official Mico Stanisic were suspected of genocide and other serious offences against civilians, and the destruction of cultural and historical monuments. He was further examining their responsibility for offences for which indictments had already been issued, including genocide, crimes against humanity, murder and rape. The siege of Sarajevo and unlawful attacks against United Nations personnel were also being investigated.

The Prosecutor has submitted two applications for deferral to the Trial Chambers of the International Tribunal. One application relates to the investigation into the Bosnian Serb leadership, while the other relates to crimes allegedly committed in the Lasava River Valley in 1992 and 1993. If they are approved, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be formally asked to defer to the Tribunal's jurisdiction in those cases.

The deferral applications were necessary so that individuals would not be tried twice for the same crime, according to the Prosecutor. A person tried by a national court could not be tried again by the International Tribunal, except in very limited circumstances. The proceedings in the International Tribunal were likely to be broader in scope than the national prosecutions. "Where there is overlap and possible conflict, the national courts must give way to the requirements of international law", he said.

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The retention of a full-time Special Representative for Somalia at the under-secretary-general level cannot be justified at the present time, according to the Secretary-General. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 18 April, he said Special Representative Victor Gbeho would return home to Ghana because of the limited possibilities for United Nations political efforts related to Somalia.

Instead, the Secretary-General has decided to establish a small political office to monitor the situation in Somalia and keep contact with the parties there. The office will be headed by a representative at the D-2 level, assisted by two Professional officers and a limited number of support staff. It will operate temporarily from Nairobi, but will be moved to Mogadishu as soon as circumstances permit. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 21 April, the Council President welcomed that decision.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1879
25 April 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General begins five-day official visit to Australia; addresses Global Conference on Cultural Diversity in Sydney.

+ Special Representative for Rwanda puts number of internally displaced people killed in Kibeho camp at 2,000; UNAMIR provides security and support for relief operations.

+ UNPROFOR reports increased military activity throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina; Special Representative continues efforts to extend cessation of hostilities agreement.

+ 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference concludes general debate.

+ Secretary-General appoints Gilberto Schlittler as Special Envoy for Guatemala peace process.

+ Committee against Torture begins fourteenth session in Geneva.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today left Indonesia to begin a five-day official visit to Australia. He was accompanied by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso.

In an address to the Global Conference on Cultural Diversity in Sydney, the Secretary-General said cultural diversity was a central issue for the United Nations and must be integrated into all aspects of its work. He noted that the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established culture as a fundamental right. The Organization's raison d'etre was to foster the integrity of cultures and to promote understanding and dialogue among the peoples of the world.

The Secretary-General identified three pillars of a global culture: a culture of peace, a culture of development and a culture of democracy. Peace required the interaction of different cultures, while development depended on

education. Democracy could not succeed without a commitment to diversity, he concluded.

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Special Representative Shahryar Khan has revised his estimate of the number of internally displaced people killed by Rwandese troops on Saturday to 2,000, a United Nations spokesman said today. He has also asked the President of Rwanda for assurances that the Army will not attack the 1,000 people remaining in the Kibeho camp. However, there have been reports that the Army has been denying them food and water.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has been seeking permission to transport those wounded on Saturday to Kigali. The Mission is also providing security and support for the distribution of relief supplies. Heavy rains and poor road conditions have made movement difficult, but there are sufficient supplies on hand to meet immediate emergency needs.

Almost 200,000 internally displaced people have already returned to their home communes, the spokesman noted. The United Nations has deployed military observers and human rights monitors in those communes.

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There has been an increase in military activity almost everywhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Bihac safe area was shelled from Serbian positions yesterday, while 1,800 firing incidents were reported around Sarajevo. The city's airport was closed today after an incoming cargo plane was hit by three rounds fired from Government positions.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi will travel to Pale and Sarajevo this weekend in another attempt to secure an extension of the cessation of hostilities agreement which expires on 30 April, the spokesman continued. Mr. Akashi will be looking for a shorter extension than the four months originally sought. He is hopeful, but not optimistic, that progress can be achieved, although the positions of the parties remain far apart.

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The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) today concluded its general debate. The four-week Conference of the 178 States parties is meeting to review the operation of the Treaty and to decide whether it should be extended indefinitely or for a fixed period or periods.

Gunnar Palsson of Iceland expressed support for the indefinite and unconditional extension of the Treaty. However, its effectiveness would only be guaranteed through the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty and a

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ban on the production of fissile materials. He also expressed concern over the discharge of radioactive waste into the marine environment by nuclear reprocessing facilities.

Philip Richard Owade of Kenya noted that the General Assembly had repeatedly called for assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons for non-nuclear-weapon States. He welcomed Security Council resolution 984 (1995) on positive security assurances, but said it did not explicitly address the question of negative assurances. The only definite assurance against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons was their total elimination.

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The Secretary-General has appointed Gilberto Schlittler as his Special Envoy for the Guatemala peace process, at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. Mr. Schlittler, a national of Brazil, has been head of the Guatemala Unit in the Department of Political Affairs since its establishment in October 1994.

As Special Envoy, Mr. Schlittler will continue to direct the work of the Guatemala Unit and coordinate all activities relating to the peace process, including the work of the Moderator.

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The Committee against Torture yesterday began its fourteenth session in Geneva by adopting its agenda. The Committee also heard a statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ibrahima Fall, who gave an overview of recent events relevant to its work. Mr. Fall noted that the International Convention against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment now had 88 States parties. Regrettably, however, it was the United Nations human rights treaty with the lowest number of accessions and ratifications.

During the two-week session, the Committee's experts will examine information appearing to indicate that torture is being systematically practised in a State party to the Convention. They will also consider communications from individuals claiming to be victims of a violation by a State party of the provisions of the Convention.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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26 April 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses concern at conflict in and around Nagorny Karabakh region; urges parties to conclude political agreement as soon as possible.

+ Secretary-General, in Sydney, has meetings with Australian Foreign Minister and Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia.

+ Aldo Ajello to deliver message from Secretary-General to Government of Rwanda regarding recent killings of internally displaced persons.

+ Secretary-General asks Security Council to extend UNMOT mandate pending report on outcome of talks between Tajik parties in Moscow.

+ FAO expresses concern about world food security; notes marginal production gains in developing countries and declining availability of food aid.

+ Government of Haiti says it is committed to peace and stability, and to cooperating with UNMIH; stresses importance of free, democratic and honest elections.

+ Ninth United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders to be held in Cairo from 29 April to 8 May.

+ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold twelfth session in Geneva from 1 to 19 May.

+ Board of Trustees of International Research and Training Institute for Advancement of Women meets in Santo Domingo.

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The Security Council today expressed satisfaction that the cease-fire in the Nagorny Karabakh region had held since it was agreed upon on 12 May 1994. However, in a statement read out by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council reiterated its concern at the conflict in and around

the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and at the tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It expressed particular concern at recent violent incidents, and emphasized the importance of using the mechanism of direct contacts for the settlement of incidents, as agreed upon last February. It urged the parties to the conflict to take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents in future.

The Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference to assist negotiations for a political agreement on the settlement of the conflict. It stressed that the parties themselves bore the main responsibility for reaching a peaceful settlement, and stressed the urgency of concluding a political agreement. The Council emphasized that such an agreement was a prerequisite for the deployment of a multinational Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) peace-keeping force. It confirmed its readiness to provide continuing political support, including through a resolution on the possible deployment of an OSCE force following an agreement for cessation of the conflict. The United Nations also stood ready to provide technical advice and expertise.

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Continuing his official visit to Australia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has had a meeting with Foreign Minister Gareth Evans. They discussed reform of the United Nations, including the expansion of the Security Council, peace-building, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. They also dealt with the situation in Burundi and preventive action by the Organization. The Secretary-General briefed Mr. Evans on his recent talks in Indonesia on East Timor, and reviewed the prospects of his good offices in that regard.

The Secretary-General also met with the Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia, Justice Michael Kirby. That meeting was attended by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso. They discussed the mission to be undertaken by Mr. Goulding next week to discuss the future of the Human Rights Centre in Cambodia with the Cambodian Government.

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The Secretary-General has asked Aldo Ajello to deliver a personal message from him to the Government of Rwanda following the recent killings of internally displaced people by the Rwandese Army, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Ajello, who recently served as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Mozambique, left New York today.

Meanwhile, women and children have been allowed to leave a medical centre which has been surrounded by Rwandese troops in the Kibeho camp. Some "hard-core Hutu militants" are still in the centre, and are armed and unwilling to give themselves up, the spokesman said, quoting reports from Rwanda.

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The Secretary-General has asked the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) until he can report on the outcome of talks between the Tajik parties, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The talks between the Government of Tajikistan and the opposition, which were convened by Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, concluded in Moscow today.

The spokesman noted that the continuation of UNMOT depended on the maintenance of the cease-fire in Tajikistan. That cease-fire expired today.

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The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has expressed concern about world food security, noting only minor improvements in the situation in developing countries. The FAO's Committee on World Food Security is currently meeting in Rome.

World production of staple foods increased by some 2 per cent from 1993 to 1994, according to FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. However, most of that increase occurred in developed countries, due mainly to more coarse grain production in the United States. In the developing countries and low-income food-deficit countries, which are most vulnerable to crises, the production increase was only marginal. Meanwhile, higher international prices for wheat and rice meant higher import bills for needy countries.

Mr. Diouf expressed particular concern about the incidence of chronic undernutrition, which affected at least 800 million people in the developing countries alone. That situation was exacerbated by the declining availability of food aid. Total cereal food aid committed for 1994-1995 had fallen below 10 million tons for the first time in more than a decade.

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The Government of Haiti has said it is deeply committed to peace and stability in the country. In a letter to the Security Council President 25 April, it said the Haitian people had demonstrated their readiness to cooperate with the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for the sake of economic and social development. The Government made those comments in response to the Council President's statement on Haiti last Monday.

The Haitian Government stressed its commitment to organizing freee, democratic and honest elections. It was counting on the success of the upcoming national elections to make the process of restoring democracy irreversible. Those elections would be held on scheduled, the Government added.

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The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held in Cairo from 29 April to 8 May. The event -- the first United Nations Crime Congress to be held in Africa -- is being hosted by the Egyptian Government. Multinational crime syndicates, money laundering, crimes against the environment, violent criminality and victims' rights will be at the top of the agenda.

The Congress will be attended by delegates of more than 140 governments and representatives of international agencies and non-governmental organizations, along with jurists, senior police officials, criminologists and other experts from around the world. They will compare national experiences, endorse policies and take steps to improve international cooperation in the crime control field.

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The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will hold its twelfth session in Geneva from 1 to 19 May. The Committee will consider the measures taken by the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Portugal, Suriname and Sweden to implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. There are currently 131 States parties to the Covenant.

In addition to the five reports scheduled for consideration, the Secretary-General has received initial reports from Mauritius, Algeria, Paraguay, El Salvador and Guatemala; a second periodic report from the Dominican Republic; and third periodic reports from Colombia, Norway, Ukraine and Spain.

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The Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women has begun its fifteenth session in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Institute was established 20 years ago to promote research and training programmes on the integration and mobilization of women in development.

In her opening statement, the President of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Postel-Coster, said there would be no sustainable development, no end to the violation of human rights, and no equality as long as women's concerns were marginalized. For that reason, the empowerment of women had become such a prominent concept. To better fulfil its mandate, the Institute's place in the interface between research, training, communication and policy should be redefined.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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27 April 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns recent killings at Kibeho camp in Rwanda; welcomes Government's decision to establish independent inquiry and to bring those responsible to justice; expresses concern about generally deteriorating security situation in country.

+ Tajik parties agree to extend cease-fire agreement until 26 May and to convene fourth round of peace talks; Security Council decides to maintain UNMOT presence in Tajikistan pending report of Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General, continuing Australia visit, meets with Minister for Development Cooperation and NGO representatives in Melbourne.

+ In address to Melbourne Conference, Secretary-General says United Nations should be renewed to take advantage of new opportunities for international cooperation.

+ Commission on Sustainable Development adopts 10 decisions on implementation of Agenda 21; begins high-level segment of current session.

+ ESCAP begins fifty-first session in Bangkok with theme of strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development.

+ IAEA says 480 nuclear power plants were operating or being built around world in 1994.

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The Security Council today condemned the killing of numerous civilians at the Kibeho camp for internally displaced persons on 22 April. In a statement read out by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council said it was encouraged by the Rwandese Government's decision to carry out a full investigation and to bring to justice those responsible. It welcomed the Government's decision to establish an independent inquiry with United Nations and other international participation to carry out that investigation. The

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Council asked the Secretary-General to report without delay on the events at Kibeho and on the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).

The Council expressed concern about the generally deteriorating security situation in Rwanda. It underlined that the Rwandese Government bore primary responsibility for maintaining security throughout the country and for the safety of internally displaced persons and returnees. The Council noted, however, that the Government had made considerable efforts for national reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation in recent months. It called on the Government to intensify those efforts and on the international community to continue to support them.

The Council expressed grave concern regarding the overcrowding in Rwanda's prisons, which had resulted in the deaths of numerous persons. It asked the Secretary-General to urgently consider measures which could be taken to improve the conditions of those in detention or under investigation. The Council urged States to arrest and detain persons against whom there was sufficient evidence of responsibility for acts within the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, in accordance with resolution 978 (1995). It asked the Secretary-General to facilitate the rapid establishment of the Tribunal.

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The Security Council has agreed to continue the presence of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) in that country. It did so at the request of the Secretary-General, pending a report on the outcome of talks between the Tajik parties which concluded in Moscow yesterday. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 26 April, the Council expressed concern at the continuing military activities on the Tajik-Afghan border. It noted that an effective cease-fire remained a necessary condition for the deployment of UNMOT.

A United Nations spokesman today announced that the Tajik Government and opposition had agreed in Moscow to extend the current cease-fire agreement for one month to 26 May. They had also agreed to hold the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Kazakhstan on 22 May. Meanwhile, the President of Tajikistan and the leader of the opposition would endeavour to have a meeting within two weeks. The Moscow talks were convened by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tajikistan.

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Continuing his visit to Australia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this morning in Sydney with representatives of the Australian Red Cross and participated in a forum entitled "Dignity for Women in War". He said humanitarian assistance for victims of armed conflict was a United Nations priority.

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The Secretary-General then departed for Melbourne, where he reiterated his gratitude to the Government and people of Australia for their support of the United Nations since 1945. He attended a State luncheon hosted by the Governor of Victoria, Richard McGarvie, and later met with the Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs, Gordon Bilney. He then met with representatives of various NGOs, at a meeting arranged by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

Later, at a special ceremony at Melbourne University, the Secretary-General was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in recognition of his contribution to international peace. He then delivered the keynote address at a Conference entitled "Great Expectations: The United Nations at Fifty".

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In his address to the Conference at Melbourne University, the Secretary-General said the United Nations should be renewed in order to take advantage of the new opportunities for international cooperation. The world was no longer divided into two opposed camps, and technology had made cooperation possible to an unprecedented degree. However, the end of the cold war had also led to an era of physical, social and political imbalance.

Today, the world faced urgent problems of scarce resources, environmental degradation and natural disasters, the Secretary-General noted. Mass migrations, disease and economic instability defied the ability of individual States to control them. Many people had sought security in narrow ethnic identities, resulting in a terrible rise of conflict within States, rather than between States.

In that context, he continued, the international community must preserve the achievements of the past, while preparing for the challenges and changes of a new era. New forms of cooperation must be explored, so that individuals could find a sense of belonging without turning to ethnic exclusivity. New ways to safeguard the protection of minorities must be developed, and new models of confederation discovered. The United Nations was ready to meet those challenges, he said, citing the Organization's achievements in diplomacy and peace-keeping, and its contributions to development and democratization.

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The Commission on Sustainable Development yesterday began the high-level segment of its current session, hearing addresses by 11 Ministers. Opening the meeting, Chairman HenriqueÑBrandao Cavalcanti (Brazil) stressed the interdisciplinary character of the Commission's work. He said one of its central objectives was to integrate the issues cutting across economic, social, environmental and institutional categories, and bring them together as fundamental tools of a sustainable strategy.

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said the role of the high-level segment was central

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to the work of the Commission. The political presence represented by the segment fostered coordination and offered the possibility of real action on implementation of sustainable development programmes.

Earlier yesterday, the Commission adopted 10 decisions on implementation of Agenda 21 -- the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) -- and referred seven back to its drafting groups for further consultation. The decisions adopted related to, among other issues, integrating environment and development in decision-making, financial resources and mechanisms, combating poverty, and changing consumption and production patterns.

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The fifty-first session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has begun in Bangkok, Thailand. Among the subjects to be considered at the session are the environment, poverty alleviation, transport and communications, statistics and the special needs of the region's least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. This year's theme is strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific.

In a message to the ESCAP session, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed the need for nations in the region to move ahead together through cooperation. He said cooperation was more essential than ever to confront such global threats as environmental degradation, international crime and natural disasters. The Secretary-General's message was read out by ESCAP Executive Secretary Adrianus Mooy.

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A total of 480 nuclear power plants were operating or being built around the world in 1994, based on data reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Power Reactor Information System. During the year, four nuclear power plants were connected to electricity grids in China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mexico, bringing the number of operating reactors to 432 in 29 countries. Meanwhile, 48 reactors were being constructed in 15 countries.

Nuclear power's share of electricity production remained high in seven countries -- Lithuania, 76.4 per cent; France, 75.3 per cent; Belgium, 55.8 per cent; Sweden, 51.1 per cent; Slovak Republic, 49.1 per cent; Bulgaria, 45.6 per cent and Hungary, 43.7 per cent. Eighteen countries relied on nuclear power plants for at least a quarter of their total electricity needs.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1882
28 April 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes deployment of 8,750 UNCRO troops in Croatia; calls for speedy conclusion of status of forces agreement.

+ Security Council pays tribute to ONUSAL as Mission nears termination; urges parties in El Salvador to cooperate in fulfilling all commitments under Peace Accords.

+ Secretary-General proposes United Nations programme budget of $2.51 billion for 1996-1997 biennium, down $109 million from 1994-1995.

+ Secretary-General meets with Australian Prime Minister in Canberra; Australia to participate in stand-by arrangements for peace-keeping.

+ Rwanda invites seven countries, OAU and UNAMIR to participate in commission to examine recent killings of internally displaced persons.

+ UNPROFOR reports increasing number of attacks against peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Grassroots public participation is needed to achieve sustainability, Commission on Sustainable Development is told.

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The Security Council today authorized the deployment of 8,750 troops for the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). The Council approved the arrangements for implementation of the Operation's mandate set out in the Secretary-General's report of 18 April. It took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 990 (1995).

The Council reaffirmed its determination to ensure the security and freedom of movement of personnel of United Nations peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. It called on the Government of Croatia and the local Serb authorities to cooperate fully with UNCRO in the implementation of its mandate. The Council called on the Government to conclude an agreement on the

status of forces and other personnel as soon as possible. It also asked the Secretary-General to report to it by 15 May.

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In a second meeting today, the Council paid tribute to the accomplishments of the United Nation Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), which will terminate on Sunday. In unanimously adopting resolution 991 (1995), it expressed satisfaction that El Salvador had evolved from a country riven by conflict into a democratic and peaceful nation.

The Council welcomed the continued commitment of the Government and people of El Salvador to reconciliation, stabilization and the development of political life. It urged the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and all concerned to accelerate the pace of implementation of the Peace Accords. The Council also urged them to work together to fulfil outstanding commitments in order to ensure the irreversibility of the peace process.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed a United Nations programme budget of $2.51 billion for the 1996-1997 biennium, according to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Joseph Connor. He told correspondents at Headquarters today that the proposal would mean reducing spending by $109 million, or 4.2 per cent, from 1994-1995. That reduction would reflect efficiency savings of $35 million and the termination of certain activities. The savings would not mean changes in the output of the Organization, but changes in its least effective spending. Meanwhile, spending in certain priority areas would be increased by $19 million.

The proposed budget envisaged the abolition of 201 posts with the goal of making the United Nations leaner and better, Mr. Connor said. That figure included 150 support staff, many of whom were no longer needed because of technological developments. A total of 66 new posts would be created, including 14 in internal oversight. The reductions in spending and posts would not mean short-changing any United Nations mandates, but would mean implementing those mandates more efficiently.

The Secretary-General had identified four areas in which spending should be increased, Mr. Connor continued. Those areas were: international and regional cooperation for development, political affairs and peace-keeping, human rights and humanitarian affairs, and internal oversight services. He stressed that the United Nations needed a core capacity for peace-keeping and humanitarian activities, regardless of whatever operations were being undertaken at any given time. The proposed budget was a strong expression of the Secretary-General's vision of what the Organization should do.

Mr. Connor called attention to the critical financial situation of the United Nations, which required attention, innovation and brinkmanship. The Organization operated on minimum cash levels of $500 million, or six weeks

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spending. "We're constantly juggling", he said. "We have no reserves and no capital". He noted that the Secretary-General had repeatedly requested the creation of a reserve fund for the United Nations.

* * *

Continuing his visit to Australia, the Secretary-General was in Canberra today, where he met with Prime Minister Paul Keating. Mr. Keating announced that Australia would participate in the stand-by arrangements for troops and equipment for United Nations peace-keeping, a decision which the Secretary-General welcomed. They also discussed the country's broader role in the United Nations system, and the economic and political prospects for the Asia-Pacific region.

The Secretary-General also had meetings with the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and representatives of the United Nations Association of Australia. In remarks at the National Press Club, he reiterated that it was very difficult for the United Nations to operate in a chronic financial crisis. "The United Nations is bankrupt", he said, adding that most Member States did not pay their assessed contributions, or paid them late.

* * *

The President of Rwanda has announced that an international commission will be set up to examine the recent killings at the Kibeho camp for internally displaced persons, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Rwandese Government will ask Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to participate with it in the commission. The Government hopes that the commission will begin its work next week.

Special Representative Shahryar Khan has expressed satisfaction with the commission's terms of reference, and has indicated that UNAMIR will cooperate with it, the spokesman said. The commission will seek to determine why the camps for internally displaced persons were closed down; if there was sufficient consultation with UNAMIR before the closures; if ethnicity was the root cause of problem; how the camps were closed; who was responsible for the events at Kibeho; and what was the role of the army and militia in the camps.

* * *

There has been an increase in the number of attacks against personnel of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), a spokesman for the Organization said today. Four peace-keepers were fired at in Sarajevo yesterday, while one was targeted in Gorazde. However, no injuries were sustained in those incidents.

The spokesman deplored the attacks, which were obviously deliberate. He warned that if they continued, troop-contributors would think about withdrawing their contingents from UNPROFOR.

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Meanwhile, there was a slight decline in military activity in some parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, there were 1,100 firing incidents in Sarajevo over a 24-hour period, and continued fighting along the Posavina Corridor and in the area around Doboj.

* * *

The Commission on Sustainable Development must be brought "out of the basement of the United Nations and into the streets of the people", according to Canada's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment, Sheila Copps. She told the third meeting of the Commission's High-level Segment that sustainability required grassroots public participation, particularly by non-governmental organizations, women, and indigenous groups.

The Minister of Housing Space and the Environment of the Netherlands, Margaretha de Boer, welcomed the establishment of the proposed intergovernmental panel on forests. Forests were one of the most important issues of the current session, she said. In no other sector were trade, industry, nature and socio-cultural issues so closely linked.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Elizabeth Dowdeswell, said the Commission was "getting further and further from achieving a sustainable balance between humans and the environment". She stressed the importance of strengthening UNEP's role as a custodian of the environment and as a strong voice for its protection.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1883
1 May 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Croatian Army launches major offensive against Croatian Serb forces after telling UNCRO peace-keepers to get out of way; Bosnian cessation of hostilities agreement expires.

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to New Zealand; has meetings with Governor-General and Prime Minister.

+ Special Envoy Ajello discusses recent killings at Kibeho and UNAMIR mandate with Government of Rwanda.

+ In message to United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention, Secretary-General says rising crime is impairing process of development.

+ United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator expresses concern over fate of aid workers missing in Chechnya.

+ Security Council Committee on arms embargo against Liberia elects Chairman at first meeting.

+ Committee on Information begins two-week session; to examine United Nations information policies and progress in field of communications.

+ International Law Commission to hold forty-seventh session in Geneva from 2 May to 21 June.

+ UNDP and UNEP sign agreements on combating desertification and providing information on sustainable development and environment.

* * *

The Croatian Army this morning launched a major offensive against Croatian Serb forces, after telling the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) peace-keepers in the Sector "to get out of the way". A United Nations spokesman said there was fighting all along the south-west and south-east edges of the Sector. Three Jordanian peace-keepers were injured -- one seriously -- when their observation post was hit by tank

fire. Meanwhile, 115 United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel were detained by Bosnian Serb forces on the fringe of Sector West in the area of Okucanj.

The spokesman described the situation in Croatia as very serious, adding that the United Nations had been holding talks with the parties. Meanwhile, the cessation of hostilities agreement between the Bosnian parties expired yesterday, after Special Representative Yasushi Akashi was unable to secure its extension.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived yesterday in Wellington to begin a four-day official visit to New Zealand. This morning, he called on Governor-General Catherine Tizard, and then proceeded to Parliament House to meet with Prime Minister James Bolger. He attended a cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Don McKinnon, as well as several other Ministers. They discussed New Zealand's role in the United Nations and the Organization's role in the world, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference and other aspects of disarmament.

The Secretary-General later addressed a meeting hosted by Foreign Minister McKinnon in association with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and the United Nations Association of New Zealand. He expressed gratitude for New Zealand's support for the Organization, and praised its role in peace-keeping and its active involvement in the work of the Security Council in the past two years.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Rwanda, Aldo Ajello, has met with the country's President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister, a United Nations spokesman said today. They discussed the recent killings at the Kibeho camp for displaced persons and the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), among other matters. The Government indicated that it wanted UNAMIR's strength reduced.

Meanwhile, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in Rwanda have completed a comprehensive assessment of needs in the communes receiving internally displaced persons. A concerted effort is being made to shift the focus of attention to those communes, the spokesman noted.

* * *

Rising crime is impairing the process of development and the general well-being of humanity, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment in a message to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which began in Cairo on

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Saturday. He stressed that improving governance was essential for the success of any development agenda or strategy, adding that good governance depended on effective law enforcement and judicial systems.

The Secretary-General warned that new and rapacious forms of criminality were taking advantage of trends that had brought many benefits: improvements in information and transportation technologies, the relaxation of border controls and the internationalization of world markets. Meanwhile, ethnic, social and political conflicts were eroding the institutions of government and administration. He urged the international community to take action to preserve the rule of law.

For the past 40 years, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme had developed and promoted standards, norms and guidelines to strengthen the rule of law, he went on to say. It had promoted international cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, providing assistance to countries with problems of national and transnational crime. This year, the Crime Congress had assumed a new format. It included not only the traditional forum for debate, but new workshops of a technical nature on priority issues. The Congress provided a unique global framework within which developed and developing countries could address the problem of crime.

* * *

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, has expressed concern over the fate of missing aid workers in Chechnya. Frederick Cuny, his interpreter and two doctors from the Russian Red Cross disappeared on 9 April while on a humanitarian mission for the Soros Foundation. Mr. Hansen appealed to all concerned to do their utmost to locate Mr. Cuny and his companions, and to ensure their safe return.

Mr. Hansen emphasized that respect for the safety and security of humanitarian relief workers was of cardinal importance. That principle must be upheld under all circumstances. Failure to do so could only result in greater suffering for those affected by the conflict, he warned.

* * *

The Committee established by the Security Council to supervise implementation of the arms embargo against Liberia held its first meeting on Friday. The Committee elected Ambassador Gerardo Martinez Blanco of Honduras as its Chairman, in his personal capacity. The Vice-Chairmen will be provided by the delegations of Indonesia and Italy.

The Committee is composed of all members of the Security Council and is formally known as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia.

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The Committee on Information today began a two-week session at Headquarters. It will continue its ongoing examination of United Nations public information policies and activities, as well as of progress achieved by the United Nations system in the fields of information and communications. The Committee will also continue its review of efforts to promote a new information and communication order, aimed at fostering peace and international understanding.

In considering these questions, the Committee will have before it reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations information centres, as well as the publications of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

* * *

The International Law Commission will begin its forty-seventh session in Geneva tomorrow. It will consider, among other topics, a draft code on crimes against the peace and security of mankind, and State responsibility and international liability for the injurious consequences of acts not prohibited by international law.

The Commission provisionally adopted the articles of the draft code after a first reading in 1991. Last year, it began the second reading of 15 of those articles. During the current session, the Commission will continue its second reading of the draft, focusing on six additional articles contained in a report of the Special Rapporteur.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have signed two agreements to help combat desertification and to increase the flow of information on sustainable development and the environment in developing countries.

The UNEP/UNDP Partnership to Combat Desertification will ensure that work programmes, expertise and resources are deployed in the most complementary and strategic manner. Building on 15 years of joint experience with the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, it will seek additional support and resources for joint programmes and work to be carried out in all regions affected by desertification.

The second agreement links the UNEP and UNDP computer networks delivering data on sustainable development and the environment around the world. The UNDP's Sustainable Development Network provides access and information to all concerned with sustainable development -- including governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, universities and the media. UNEP's "INFOTERRA" is a worldwide computer network of 6,500 government-designated institutions in 170 countries.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1884
2 May 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council demands immediate end to Croatian Government offensive in Sector West; urges parties to comply with existing cease-fire agreement.

+ Croatian Serbs fire cluster bombs into Zagreb, killing five, while Croatian Army shells Okucani; UNPROFOR reports no increase in military activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General, in New Zealand, meets with Defence Secretary and Chiefs of Staff; reviews provision of troops for Stand-by Arrangements for peace-keeping.

+ United Nations needs favourable public opinion more than ever, Assistant Secretary-General Sanbar tells Committee on Information.

+ Commission on Sustainable Development concludes third session by adopting 20 decisions on implementation of Agenda 21.

+ Benita Ferrero-Waldner resigns as United Nations Chief of Protocol.

+ Two million Haitians register to vote in upcoming elections.

+ UNITAR awards fellowships in international law to 18 candidates from developing countries.

* * *

The Security Council last night demanded that the Croatian Government immediately end its military offensive in the Sector West area of Western Slavonia. In a statement by its President, Jean-Bernard Mérimée (France), the Council said the offensive was a violation of the cease-fire agreement signed by the Croatian Government and the local Serb authorities in March 1994. It urged the parties to end the hostilities and comply with the existing agreement.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council also demanded that the parties respect the December 1994 Economic Agreement, and in particular to ensure the safety and security of the Zagreb-Belgrade Highway and the areas immediately surrounding it. It called on the parties to fully respect the safety and freedom of movement of all United Nations and European Community personnel in the area concerned, and to remove all restrictions placed on United Nations personnel. The Council urged the parties to accept the proposals put to them by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi without delay.

However, Mr. Akashi today said that the Croatian parties had broken a pledge to exercise maximum restraint while considering his proposal for a formal cease-fire agreement. He reported that there had been air and artillery attacks in Sector West this morning, and explosions in the heart of Zagreb and around Pleso Airport. Describing the situation as grave, he stressed the need to halt the escalating violence while there was still time to replace war with dialogue. Meanwhile, talks scheduled to take place today at Pleso were postponed because of logistical difficulties.

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Croatian Serb forces today fired rockets containing cluster bombs into Zagreb, according to a United Nations spokesman. Five people were killed and more than 120 were injured, six of whom were expected to die. Meanwhile, the Croatian Army continued its shelling of the area around Okucani. The fighting which erupted yesterday forced some 5,000 Croatian Serbs to take refuge across the border in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The spokesman said some 70 Nepalese peace-keepers pinned down by fighting around the Sava River Bridge had withdrawn safely and were re-establishing an observation post in the area. However, the United Nations had lost contact with 15 Nepalese soldiers who were stuck between Croatian Army and Croatian Serb positions north of Okucani. Meanwhile, Croatian Serb forces were preventing 62 Argentinian and 14 Nepalese peace-keepers from leaving their observation posts. In addition, 36 civilian police monitors and two local interpreters were being held in a school in the Okucani area, but were being treated well.

The expiration of the Bosnian cessation of hostilities agreement on Saturday had not lead to increased military activity in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) mission area, the spokesman continued. The situation in Sarajevo was quiet, although Bihac and Gorazde had both come under fire from Bosnian Serb positions.

* * *

Continuing his official visit to New Zealand, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with the Defence Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defence, Gerald Hensley. They reviewed the provision of troops to United Nations Stand-by Arrangements for peace-keeping. The Secretary-General expressed his gratitude for New Zealand's contributions to peace-keeping operations over the years.

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The Secretary-General then called on the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Douglas Graham, and discussed a range of issues. He later met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Don McKinnon. They focused on New Zealand's international and regional role, cooperation with the United Nations, and the situations in East Timor, Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General also met with Opposition Leader Helen Clark.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-General flew to Linton Military Camp to meet with Defence Force personnel who had served in peace-keeping operations. He will leave New Zealand tomorrow for an official visit to Fiji.

* * *

Never has the ability of the United Nations to disseminate information on its work and achievements been more important, according to the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar. In an address to the Committee on Information yesterday, he said the Organization needed to generate favourable public opinion more than ever before.

Mr. Sanbar called attention to new initiatives and approaches by the Department of Public Information (DPI). The question was how to employ limited resources to master new technologies and communicate the Organization's message to vast new audiences. Despite increased budgetary constraints and demands on resources, the DPI was keeping pace with rapidly evolving technology and accelerating along the "information superhighway".

The Committee yesterday elected Ivan Maximov (Bulgaria) as its Chairman, and Minhaj Barna (Pakistan), Jose Alberto de Sousa (Portugal) and Alejandro Hector Nieto (Argentina) as Vice-Chairmen. It also approved its provisional agenda and programme of work. Today, the Committee elected Fateh Zeghib (Algeria) as its Rapporteur.

* * *

The Commission on Sustainable Development has concluded its third session by adopting 20 decisions relating to the implementation of Agenda 21 -- the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Plan of Action. Decisions were taken on issues ranging from financial resources and mechanisms to its future work programme on changing consumption and production patterns.

By one of its decisions, the Committee established an ad hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. It stressed the need for further assessment of action already undertaken to combat deforestation and to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

In other actions, the Commission adopted its final report and the draft provisional agenda for its fourth session. It also approved the establishment of two ad hoc open-ended intersessional working groups. Those groups will

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address sectoral items on the atmosphere and oceans, and cross-sectoral issues of financial resources and mechanisms, as well as changing production and consumption patterns.

In summarizing the work of the High-level Segment, Commission Chairman Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti (Brazil) noted the attendance of over 50 ministers and State secretaries. The Segment was also attended by representatives of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

* * *

Benita Ferrero-Waldner has resigned from the position of United Nations Chief of Protocol in order to take up a high-level appointment in the Austrian Government, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali accepted Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner's resignation with great regret, and expressed thanks for her service to the Organization.

* * *

More than two million people -- or 70 per cent of the eligible electorate -- have registered to vote in the upcoming national elections in Haiti, according to a United Nations spokesman. The deadline for registration has been extended to 30 May. The first round of elections is scheduled to take place on 25 June, while the second round is scheduled for 23 July.

* * *

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has awarded 18 fellowships in international law to candidates from Argentina, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Comoros, Egypt, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turkey and Tunisia, as well as the Palestinian Authority.

UNITAR will hold a training programme at The Hague, Netherlands, from 3 July to 11 August. The programme will enable professionals from developing countries, particularly mid-level government officials and university teachers, to acquire additional knowledge about international law and the legal work of the United Nations and its associated bodies. Participants will attend special seminars organized by the Institute, and lectures on private and public international law at the Hague Academy of International Law.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1885
3 May 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Croatian Government and Croatian Serbs agree to complete cessation of hostilities in Sector West and elsewhere; all United Nations personnel in Croatia accounted for and safe.

+ Security Council calls on Bosnian parties to agree to further cease-fire and cessation of hostilities without delay.

+ Security Council expresses concern at obstruction of Sarajevo airport by Bosnian Serbs; seeks safety guarantees for all UNPROFOR-supervised flights.

+ New Executive Director of UNICEF stresses commitment to making Fund as efficient and effective as possible.

+ Special Representative for Angola and Angolan Government sign status of forces agreement for UNAVEM III in Lusaka.

+ International commission of inquiry into events at Kibeho camp holds preliminary meeting in Rwanda.

+ On World Press Freedom Day, Committee on Information hears call for rededication to principle of free expression.

* * *

The Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs have agreed to a complete cessation of hostilities in Sector West and elsewhere, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi announced today in Zagreb. The agreement has already come into effect, but has yet to be signed. On Monday night, the Security Council demanded an immediate end to a Croatian Government offensive launched earlier that day in Sector West.

According to the agreement, civilians and soldiers who wish to leave Sector West may do so under United Nations surveillance, in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the local Red Cross as required.

For information media—not an official record

Soldiers may leave with personal sidearms only, and must hand all other weapons over to United Nations custody.

Some 600 Croatian Serb soldiers today began surrendering their weapons to the United Nations near Pakrac, according to a spokesman for the Organization. However, four shells landed in Zagreb this morning, killing one person and wounding 50. There was one other shelling incident in Sector South this morning, but it ended before the cessation of hostilities agreement was concluded. Meanwhile, all United Nations personnel in Croatia have been accounted for and are safe.

In a related development, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia have invited the Croatian parties to meet in Geneva on Friday. They have also been in close touch with the Contact Group, which met today in London to discuss the situation.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed deep concern at the failure of the Bosnian parties to extend the agreements on a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina beyond 30 April. In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Mérimée (France), the Council called on the parties to agree to a further cease-fire and cessation of hostilities without delay. In that regard, it expressed full support for the negotiating efforts of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and other international parties.

The Council expressed concern about the recent deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, stressing that all attempts to resolve the conflict by military means were unacceptable. It urged the Bosnian parties to abstain from any steps that might further escalate the conflict. It reaffirmed the need for a political settlement based on the acceptance of the Contact Group Plan as a starting point.

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In a second statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council expressed concern at the obstruction of the operation of Sarajevo airport by the Bosnian Serbs. It demanded that all concerned immediately create conditions necessary for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian supplies, and fully comply with the 1992 agreement on the reopening of the airport under United Nations authority.

The Council called on the Bosnian Serb party to guarantee the safety of all UNPROFOR-supervised flights to Sarajevo, including humanitarian relief flights. It said the obstruction of the airport was unacceptable and violated international humanitarian law.

* * *

The new Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Carol Bellamy, today stressed her commitment to making the Fund the

best run and most efficient agency possible. She told correspondents at Headquarters that she was dedicated to meeting the external challenges of a changing world and the internal challenges of management and administrative reform. She noted that a review of the Fund had recently been completed with outside help.

Ms. Bellamy, who took office on 1 May, said UNICEF had a good track record and enjoyed the strong support of governments around the world. Much of its success was due to fact that it had been able to set out clear objectives and to fulfil them. The Fund should be accountable to donor countries. The problem of donor fatigue would force it to make efficient and effective use of financial and staff resources. Regarding the selection procedure for the position of Executive Director, she said the United States and European countries had the same goals for the Fund.

UNICEF was dedicated to the empowerment of women and children, Ms. Bellamy continued. Its policy on contraception and abortion was quite clear -- it did not provide either. She underlined the importance of children's rights, noting that 174 countries had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

* * *

The Government of Angola and Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye today signed a status of forces agreement regarding the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III). A spokesman for the Organization described the signing in Lusaka, Zambia, as an extremely important step. He noted that the United Nations had experienced difficulties in several mission areas due to the fact that status of forces agreements had not been signed promptly or had not been signed at all.

* * *

The international commission of inquiry into the recent events at Kibeho was scheduled to hold a preliminary meeting in Kigali today, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Government of Rwanda has invited Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to participate in the commission. The meeting scheduled for today was preliminary because some of those countries did not yet have representatives present in Kigali.

The commission will seek to determine why the camps for internally displaced Rwandese were closed down; if there was sufficient consultation with UNAMIR before the closures; if ethnicity was a root cause of the problem; how the camps were closed; who was responsible for the events at Kibeho; and what was the role of the army and militia in the camps.

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The Chairman of the Committee on Information, Ivan Maximov (Bulgaria), today marked World Press Freedom Day by calling for a rededication to the principles of freedom of expression and the free flow of information as a means of achieving a better world. The Day was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1993 and was observed for the first time last year. As the Committee continued its general exchange of views, speakers paid tribute to journalists who had given their lives in the performance of their duties.

The representative of France said a reduced budget should encourage the Department of Public Information (DPI) to redefine its priorities, review its budgetary choices and focus on such cost-effective areas as electronic networks. He was speaking on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and Romania.

Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, the representative of the Philippines was gratified that DPI had made great progress in a cost-effective streamlining of its operations. He added that the Department should always take into account the principles of the Charter and the wishes of Member States.

Meanwhile, in a message for World Press Freedom Day, Director-General Federico Mayor of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said it was now more urgent than ever to speak up about press freedom and tolerance. He noted that over 100 media professionals had died violent deaths last year, and that 130 were currently being held in jails.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1886
4 May 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Representative Akashi expresses concern at continued fighting in Croatia despite cessation of hostilities agreement; appeals to both sides to exercise maximum restraint.

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Fiji; meets with President and Prime Minister in Suva.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNOMIG mandate for six months; says withdrawal of Mission would lead to resumption of conflict in Abkhazia.

+ Prime Minister of Rwanda chairs meeting of international commission of inquiry into events at Kibeho camp.

+ United Nations Committee against Torture adopts views on four complaints.

+ ESCAP concludes annual session by endorsing action programme for regional cooperation in human resources development.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today expressed concern that fighting had continued in some parts of Croatia despite the agreement on a complete cessation of hostilities yesterday. He noted that there had been continued tensions and threatening actions in all areas. He appealed to both sides to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from all provocative actions and any retaliation.

Some of the violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement appeared to be isolated incidents caused by a lack of communication between commanders and soldiers in the field, Mr. Akashi said. He warned that those incidents could lead to an escalation which threatened the remaining prospects for peace in the area.

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For information media—not an official record

Mr. Akashi called on the Croatian Government to cooperate fully with United Nations forces and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) in implementing the cessation of hostilities agreement.

In a related development, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia announced that the Croatian parties had accepted invitations to meet in Geneva. The meeting would be held next week, not on Friday as originally hoped.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has begun a two-day official visit to Fiji, the first by a United Nations Secretary-General in 19 years. He was received upon arrival in Suva by Prime Minister Suluweti Rabuka and Lord Mayor Jone Kauvesi.

The Secretary-General then held talks with Prime Minister Rabuka and members of his Cabinet. He expressed appreciation for Fiji's contribution to the work of the United Nations, and paid tribute to the 32 Fijian soldiers who had died over the years in the service of world peace. Fiji's support for the Organization showed how a small country with political will could play an effective role in establishing international peace and stability.

Prime Minister Rabuka reiterated Fiji's strong commitment to the United Nations and said Fiji was ready to send more troops to peace-keeping operations if asked to do so. He raised the problem of arrears in the payments due to the country for its participation in such operations. The Secretary-General reviewed the Organization's financial crisis, which resulted from late payments by Member States of contributions to the regular and peace-keeping budgets.

The Secretary-General later had a meeting with the President of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. He also met with United Nations Resident Coordinator Somsey Norindr and representatives of United Nations agencies in Fiji. Despite the attention which the media focused on peace-keeping, he stated, the core of the work of the United Nations system was in development, which was a prerequisite for peace.

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for six months. The extension would be subject to revision in the light of the decision taken by the Commonwealth of Independent States regarding the mandate of its peace-keeping force in Georgia. He warned that the untimely withdrawal of UNOMIG and the CIS force would lead to open confrontation and the resumption of conflict.

In a report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, dated 1 May, the Secretary-General said the dialogue between the parties had encountered difficulties. He stressed the need for progress in the political

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negotiations, which would require patience and perseverance. Experience had shown that tense political stalemates in which neither peace nor war prevailed did not allow the creation of stability and public confidence. On the contrary, pressures built to change the political circumstances or the situation in the ground.

UNOMIG's military observers had been able to perform the tasks assigned to them, he continued. However, their presence had not contributed substantially to the creation of conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons. The main reason for that situation was that neither the Georgian Government nor the Abkhaz authorities had given safety guarantees, as required by the Quadripartite Agreement of 4 April 1994.

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The international commission of inquiry into the recent events at Kibeho held its first meeting in Kigali yesterday, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting, which was chaired by the Prime Minister of Rwanda, dealt with organizational matters. Most of the countries participating, including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United States and the United Kingdom, were represented by their Ambassadors to Rwanda. They indicated that their designated representatives would arrive in Kigali over the weekend. The commission is scheduled to hold its first official working session on Monday.

In an another development, Rwanda's Interior Minister met with United Nations and non-governmental organization representatives yesterday. He announced that they would be given access to the communes to which internally displaced persons were returning, as well as to local prisons.

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The United Nations Committee against Torture has concluded that the decision by Canada to expel an asylum-seeker who claimed he feared torture if returned to Pakistan would constitute a violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In the light of that conclusion, the Committee was of the view that the State party had an obligation to refrain from forcibly returning him to Pakistan.

The Committee also decided that a communication from two citizens of Spain against that country, and two communications from Zairian citizens against Switzerland were inadmissible.

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The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has concluded its annual session in Bangkok, Thailand, by endorsing an action programme for strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development. It took that action in adopting a report containing 12 resolutions.

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Senior officials from some 60 countries, together with representatives from United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, took part in the week-long session. Apart from the theme topic of strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, they discussed regional economic cooperation, the environment and sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and transport and communications. They also focused on the special needs of the region's least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1887
5 May 1995

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council condemns incursions into zone of separation by Croatian Government forces in Sectors North and South and by both Government and local Serb forces in Sector East; expresses deep concern at continuing hostilities in Croatia.

+ Situation in Sector West is described as unstable.

+ Secretary-General leaves Fiji for Japan at end of two-day visit.

+ Third progress report on UNAVEM III is presented to the Security Council by the Secretary-General.

+ United Nations Rwanda Emergency Office in Kigali in latest emergency situation update, says majority of internally displaced persons transported to home communes.

+ There is need to increase role of radio in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Committee on Information is told.

+ Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, continuing in Cairo, concludes discussion on action against economic and organized crime.

+ Critical food shortages and international indifference are threatening lives of more than 1 million of most vulnerable people in Iraq, according to WFP.

+ Unless new funds are swiftly identified, aid programmes for 580,000 displaced people in Georgia and Azerbaijan will be interrupted by end of May, UNHCR declares.

+ Secretary-General condoles death of former President of World Bank, Lewis Preston.

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For information media--not an official record

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The Security Council has expressed deep concern at continuing hostilities in Croatia. In a statement Thursday night, read on behalf of the Council, by its President Jean-Bernard Mérimée (France) the Council condemned the incursions into the zone of separation by Croatian Government forces in Sectors North and South and by both Government and local Serb forces in Sector East. The Council demanded that those forces be withdrawn immediately. It also condemned the local Serb bombardment of Zaghreb and other civilian population centres, demanding that these activities cease immediately.

The Security Council further condemned the acts of harassment and intimidation against United Nations personnel and reminded the parties of their obligations to respect such personnel at all times and to ensure their safety, security and freedom of movement. The Security Council called on the parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in protecting and assisting the local civilian population and any displaced persons.

The Council expressed its deep concern at reports that the human rights of the Serb population of Western Slavonia were being violated. It demanded that the Government of the Republic of Croatia respect fully the rights of the Serb population concerned in conformity with internationally recognized standards.

The Security Council went on to demand that the parties cease all hostilities immediately, act according to the proposals made to them by the Secretary-General's Special Representative and cooperate fully with him and UNCRO.

* * *

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi and the Force Commander Bertrand Janvier went to Pacrac today in Western Slavonia, according to a United Nations spokesman. They had been forced to call off the visit Thursday, due to heavy fighting in the region. A United Nations spokesman in Zaghreb described the situation in Sector West as unstable.

The United Nations peace-keepers in the region of western Slavonia have also been endangered. The Nepalese battalion was told by the Croatian Army this morning to move out of its base in Pustara in the south-eastern area of the sector. The reason given by the Croatian Army was that the security of the UN personnel could not be assured. However, according to a Spokesman, an order has gone out from UN Headquarters to the Nepalese battalion that they should not move.

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Mr. Boutros-Ghali leaves Fiji on Friday for Japan at the end of a two-day visit to the island nation. While in Fiji, the Secretary-General had meetings with President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister Suluweti Rabuka, and members of the Cabinet. He also met with representatives of United Nations agencies in Fiji.

From Japan, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will go on to the Russian Federation.

* * *

The Secretary-General has presented his third progress report on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, UNAVEM III to the Security Council. Under resolution 976 (1995) the Secretary-General had been asked by the Council to report monthly on the implementation of that resolution. The latest report is an acknowledgement of the progress that has been made and the necessary steps leading the deployment of UNAVEM III. The Secretary-General said in the report, that much more needs to be done.

A UN Spokesman said that the Secretary-General has once again told the parties that he would not hesitate to recommend to the Council that deployment of troops be postponed or stopped if the parties failed to fulfill their commitments under the Lusaka Protocol and the various resolutions of the Security Council. He was particularly concerned about slow progress in demining, the opening of major roads and airfield repair and other vital infrastructure which has to be done before the troop deployment can proceed in an orderly and effective manner.

Meanwhile, the meeting between President Dos Santos of Angola and Mr. Jonas Savimbi will be held on Saturday in Lusaka, Zambia. Mr. Savimbi and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola Mr. Aliounne Blondin Beye are already in Lusaka.

* * *

The United Nations Rwanda Emergency Office in Kigali (UNREO) has released its latest emergency situation update. The report said a majority of the internally displaced persons at the Ndera Transit Centre have been transported to their home communes. The report noted that the Government of Rwanda, UN Agencies and NGOs were continuing to provide assistance to the returnees and vulnerable groups in the home communes.

About 300 of the internally displaced people left the Kibeho camp on Thursday, according to a UN Spokesman. Due to rain and bad road conditions, only a trickle have left the camp on Friday. Representatives of non-governmental organizations were allowed to enter the Kibeho camp for the first time yesterday, but were not allowed to bring in food water or medicines. The spokesman said, some hard-core elements remained on the second floor of the building in the medical complex but their numbers were not known.

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There was a need to increase the role of radio in United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Committee on Information has been told, as it continued its general debate Friday. The representative of Japan, citing "Radio UNAMIR" which provides service for peace-keeping in Rwanda, said it was particularly important that the United Nations have its own radio broadcasting capacity in areas where an effective local radio infrastructure did not exist. He commended the Department of Public Information (DPI) for its progress in expanding access to United Nations information on the Internet and other electronic networks.

More funds should be allocated for the information component of peace-keeping operations, the representative of Pakistan said. He suggested that developed and developing countries should share professional expertise and technology to promote a two-way flow of information.

* * *

The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders continuing in Cairo has concluded its discussion on action against economic and organized crime and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment.

Under the terms of a draft resolution being considered, the Congress would unequivocally condemn organized crime and terrorism and consider them to be crimes against human rights and basic democratic freedoms, threatening the territorial integrity of States and jeopardizing the stability of legally constituted governments.

The representative of Egypt, introducing the draft, said it was a combination of a Turkish and an Egyptian proposal. The draft would have the Congress request that a code of conduct for combating organized crime and its links with terrorism be drafted by an intergovernmental working group of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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Critical food shortages and international indifference are threatening the lives of more than 1 million of the most vulnerable people in Iraq, according to the World Food Programme, WFP. A lack of donor pledges had forced the Programme to slash rations and to cut by 50% the number of people receiving assistance. Despite these measures, the Programme said, most food stocks would be depleted by the end of May.

Last year, WFP focused its food aid on 1.3 million nutritionally vulnerable people throughout Iraq. Today only 650,000 people get only seven kilogrammes a month instead of the required 12 kilogrammes while others receive a reduced ration only every other month. They are mainly refugees and displaced persons, the handicapped and the elderly, and orphans. According to WFP for the past two months, the Programme has had nothing to distribute except lentils and flour.

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Francisco Roque Castro, WFP Country Director for Iraq said too many children were dying in Iraq from something as simple as bronchitis. They were so weakened by malnutrition that they could not recover.

To cover relief operations until the end of September, WFP said it urgently needed $24.5 million for food, transport and logistics. However, no donor pledges had been received so far.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) declared on Friday that unless new funds could be swiftly identified, aid programmes for 580,000 displaced people in Georgia and Azerbaijan would have to be interrupted by the end of May. Donor countries had not adequately responded to UNHCR's fund-raising appeals for 1995 operations in these two countries.

For the 300,000 displaced persons in Azerbaijan assisted by UNHCR, the situation was critical. Of the $8.2 million budget, UNHCR had received only $2.4 million, which had already been depleted on housing, sanitation and income-generating projects.

In Georgia, only 26% of the current year's $9 million budget had been funded. Lack of funds had already forced UNHCR to interrupt several programs, such as the information campaign on landmines, which was principally aimed at educating children who were the main victims of landmines in the area.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condoled the death of Lewis Preston, who had just retired as President of the World Bank. A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the leadership of Mr. Preston as President of the World Bank which was a specialized agency of the United Nations and for his cooperation with the Secretary-General and the rest of the United Nations system. Mr. Boutros-Ghali extended his condolences to the members of Mr. Preston's family.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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8 May 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Representative Akashi meets with Croatian authorities and Knin Serbs on tense situation along confrontation line in Croatia.

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is in Moscow to take part in 50th anniversary of end of World War II in Europe.

+ Economic and Social Council concludes resumed organizational session.

+ 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference defers decision on extension of Treaty for 48 hours.

+ Committee on Information members praise work of DPI in projecting true image of United Nations.

+ Judicial system in Rwanda is not functioning due to lack of staff who were massacred or exiled, Rwanda's Attorney-General tells Ninth United Nations Crime Congress in Cairo.

+ President of Angola and leader of UNITA meet in Zambia.

+ Experts from countries ratifying Montreal Protocol meet in Nairobi to consider further adjustments to treaty.

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In the former Yugoslavia, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has held a number of meetings with both the Croatian authorities and the Knin Serbs concerning the tense situation along the confrontation line in Croatia. A United Nations spokesman in Zaghreb said it was Mr. Akashi's assessment that the diplomatic moves over the weekend, may have bought a little time for the parties to the conflict to consider political options. The spokesman said Mr. Akashi felt that he may be close to an agreement to get the forces to pull

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For information media—not an official record

back from the line. Today there was some positive movement away from the confrontation line in one Sector by the Croatian forces. However, according to the spokesman, in another sector there was a reinforcement of positions.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the situation was tense over the weekend with over two thousand firing incidents in Sarajevo on Sunday around Dobrinja and Mount Igman. The spokesman said, in the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka, there was a report of one catholic monastery being blown up. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees , UNHCR has confirmed that one monk was reported to have been killed.

The President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic said Sarajevo had been shelled again and at least 10 people had been killed. In a letter to the Secretary-General, President Izetbegovic said Sarajevo was increasingly being targeted by forbidden weapons. The letter was read for UN correspondents by Ambassador Mohammad Sacirbey. He said things had only become worse in Sarajevo despite assurances by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is in Moscow to take part in the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. Earlier today, the Secretary-General met with the President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, during which they discussed the role of Russia in the world. According to a United Nations spokesman, their talks centred on the situations in the former Yugoslavia, Tajikistan, Georgia and Nagorny-Karabakh. The Secretary-General also thanked President Yeltsin for Russia's support of peace-keeping operations including the latest announcement regarding an offer of Russian peacekeepers to UNAVEM III in Angola. They also discussed arms control and progress toward nuclear disarmament.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has concluded its resumed organizational session by adopting decisions on the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS and the operational activities for development segment of its forthcoming substantive session, to be held in Geneva from 26 June to 28 July.

The Council decided that the high-level meeting on the operational activities for development segment of its substantive session would consider, as a principal theme, the implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994. A second issue would be a preliminary exchange on the follow-up to the World Summit for
Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

In other action, the Council decided that the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS should comprise 22 elected members. The Council also decided to resume its 1995 organizational session on 1 June, in order to hold elections to the Programme's Board. At

that time, it would also take up the question of the draft decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development to establish an Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

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The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has deferred for 48 hours its decision on the extension of the Treaty. Noting that consensus had not yet been reached on any of the three proposed formulas for extending the Treaty, Conference President Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka) said that he would continue consultations.

Should consensus not be reached by Wednesday, 10 May, the Conference would decide on extension by a majority vote. On Friday, the Conference had been presented with three drafts. Two draft decisions - one proposed by Canada, the other by Mexico would have the Conference extend the Treaty indefinitely without conditions or extend the Treaty through rolling, 25-year periods. A draft resolution submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the group of Non-Aligned countries, would indefinitely extend the Treaty with conditions.

Consultations were also continuing on whether the voting would be in open plenary or through a secret ballot if a vote on Treaty extension was required.

This morning, the Conference took note of the report of its Main Committee I, which had been reviewing the disarmament and security assurances aspects of the Treaty. Committee Chairman, Isaac E. Ayewah (Nigeria), in explaining the lack of agreement on many key issues, said that the subject matter before the Committee was both difficult and controversial.

* * *

Members of the Committee on Information today praised the work of the Department of Public Information (DPI) in projecting a true image of the United Nations, especially at times when the Organization's objectives were not always correctly presented by the media.

The observer from Ethiopia said that in addition to its peacekeeping, peacemaking and development activities, DPI had a teaching role and should do more than project a positive and unified image of the United Nations. It had a fundamental responsibility of changing the attitudes of people in order to help them live with one another in harmony.

Speaking for a troop-contributing country, the representative of Nepal joined several speakers in stressing that DPI had largely succeeded in meeting the growing demands of peace-keeping activities and that the role of the information component should be expanded.

The representative of Indonesia was one of several speakers who highlighted the importance of realizing a new world information and

communications order to help eliminate existing disparities between the developed and developing countries.

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The judicial system in Rwanda was no longer functioning due to a lack of staff who been either massacred or exiled, that country's Attorney-General of the Supreme Court told the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Cairo. During a special plenary session on technical cooperation projects, Attorney-General Louis-Marie Mugenzi said the genocide last year had resulted in the destruction of lives, property and institutions. He said his Government had a great need for assistance, especially for financial, material and human resources.

Corruption was not limited to third world countries but often had its roots in the entrepreneurial practices in liberal democracies, Antonio di Pietro, Italy's former "Clean Hands" Magistrate, told the Congress. He was addressing a panel of experts on anti-corruption measures. The former judge, who had led recent investigations into corruption in Italy, said, "corruption is like a coin -- it has two sides: one side is the corrupter and the other, the corrupted".

Four other experts addressed the Congress as it began a two-part debate on national experiences and practical measures for combating corruption.

A politically independent prosecutor's office was essential to fight high-level corruption, stressed Shinichi Tsuchiya, Director of the Asian Crime Prevention Foundation and a former Prosecutor in Japan.

Brazil's Minister of Justice, Nelson Azevedo Jobim, said the impeachment of the country's former President had been made possible by a number of mechanisms in place to fight corruption, including the empowerment of the Parliament to suspend executive authority and investigate presidential activities and finances. A free press and independent judicial authority were other essential elements in the fight, he said.

The other panelists making introductory statements were M. Cherif Bassiouni, President of the International Association of Penal Law and President of the Siracusa Institute for Higher Criminological Studies; and Senator Romul Vonica, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Romania.

* * *

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) met in Lusaka, Zambia on Saturday, according to a UN spokesman. The two Angolan leaders discussed substantive aspects of the situation in the country, the idea of a Government of national reconciliation and Dr. Savimbi's role in the process, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, it was anticipated that the first deployment of peace-keeping troops under UNAVEM III would be a battalion from Uruguay, scheduled for middle of this month.

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Over 300 experts from countries which have ratified the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, today began a week-long meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in Nairobi. The government experts are considering possible further amendments and adjustments to the international treaty widely viewed as a model for international cooperation in environmental issues.

The Open-ended Working Group of the Parties has before it a series of assessment reports prepared last year by expert panels coordinated by UNEP. The Assessment Reports were prepared by over 700 experts in the scientific, legal and environmental fields from 46 countries and cover the areas of science, environmental effects, technology and economics, among others.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1889
9 May 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council commemorates fiftieth anniversary of end of Second World War in Europe; observes minute of silence in memory of combatants and victims.

+ Secretary-General attends official ceremonies in Moscow marking anniversary of end of Second World War in Europe.

+ Situation in Croatia remains tense, with troop concentrations along cease-fire lines; Secretary-General to convene meeting on situation in former Yugoslavia in Paris on Friday.

+ International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia considers application for deferral regarding war crimes allegedly committed in Bosnia's Lasva River Valley.

+ Denmark signs Memorandum of Understanding with United Nations on provision of troops for Stand-by Arrangements for peace-keeping.

+ Ninth United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime concludes with adoption of resolutions on terrorism, organized crime and attacks on minorities.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements concludes second session.

+ All-inclusive dialogue on East Timor to take place in Austria from 2 to 5 June.

+ Member States owe United Nations almost $3 billion as of 31 May; $1.03 billion owed to regular budget and $1.93 billion owed to peace-keeping.

* * *

The Security Council today commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe by observing a minute of silence in

memory of the combatants and victims. In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Mérimée (France), the Council recalled that the United Nations had been created primarily to preserve future generations from the scourge of war. The Council had been given a special role in that effort, in that the Charter of the United Nations entrusted it with the principal responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

"For this reason, it seems appropriate for the Security Council to pay tribute on this anniversary to all the victims of the Second World War and to recall the Council's firm desire to make every possible effort to help mitigate the human suffering that results from war", the statement read.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today attended ceremonies in Moscow commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. He began the day in Red Square, where he attended the Parade of participants in the Great Patriotic War and of home front veterans. Russian President Boris Yeltsin delivered an address at the start of the Parade. The Secretary-General then proceeded to Poklonnaya Hill, where he attended the Military Parade.

The Secretary-General also took part in the official opening of the Great Patriotic War Memorial on the Poklonnaya Hill. Statements were made by Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin of Russia, President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom, and President Bill Clinton of the United States. The ceremony also marked the inauguration of the Central Museum of the Patriotic War. The Secretary-General later attended a state reception given by the Russian President at the Kremlin Palace.

Tomorrow, before leaving for Paris, the Secretary-General will meet with staff at the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow. He will also be presented with a special medal by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

* * *

The situation in Croatia remained tense today, with troop concentrations along the cease-fire lines in Sectors North, South and East, according to a United Nations spokesman. In Sector North, both sides continued to maintain a presence inside the cease-fire lines and there were some firing incidents. In Sector South, there were tensions around nine United Nations observation posts which were either surrounded or occupied by the Croatian Army. In Sector East, severe restrictions were placed on the movement of United Nations personnel.

The spokesman announced that the Secretary-General would convene a meeting on the situation in the former Yugoslavia in Paris on Friday. The meeting would be attended by, among others, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, Force Commander General Bernard Janvier, and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

* * *

The Trial Chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia met today to consider an application for deferral submitted by the Prosecutor. The application relates to crimes allegedly committed between September 1992 and June 1993 in the Lasva River Valley in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. If it is approved, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be formally asked to defer to the Tribunal's jurisdiction and to pass the results of its investigation to the Office of the Prosecutor.

In a submission to the International Tribunal, the Bosnian Government proposed that its investigation into the incidents in the Lasva River Valley be deferred to the Tribunal.

* * *

Denmark today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations regarding the provision of troops for the Stand-by Arrangements for peace-keeping. Denmark is the second country after Jordan to have signed such a memorandum, although a total of 31 countries have formally agreed to participate in the Stand-by Arrangements. The Organization has been holding talks with another 10 countries that have agreed to do so in principle.

Denmark's Minister for Defence, Hans Haekkerup, told correspondents at Headquarters today that his country would provide a brigade of troops for the Stand-by Arrangements. The brigade would be available at very short notice -- as little as two weeks -- giving the United Nations the ability to respond rapidly to a threatening situation. He noted that it had sometimes taken weeks, or even months, for peace-keepers to be deployed, by which time atrocities had already been committed. Rapid deployment could prevent atrocities and reduce the need for peace-keepers in the long term.

The Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, which "closed the loop" after lengthy talks on the matter. He noted that United Nations officials had visited some 55 countries with a view to securing contributions for the Stand-by Arrangements. He stressed that the Organization needed high-readiness troops for the first six months of a mission. Peace-keepers needed more than "a helmet and a rifle" -- they had to be well trained and properly equipped, he added.

* * *

The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders concluded its 10-day session in Cairo yesterday. The Congress adopted resolutions on a wide range of issues, including the proliferation of firearms, deliberate environmental damage, organized crime, corruption of public officials, attacks on minorities and acts of terrorism.

Reflecting the concerns of many delegates over the threat posed by terrorist groups to public safety and national security, the Congress adopted a resolution condemning terrorist acts and organized crime, as well as the linkages between the two. It called for steps to be taken to draft a code of conduct or other legal instrument for combating organized transnational crime,

with due regard to its links with terrorist acts. Syria, Sudan, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran had wanted the resolution to make a clear distinction between acts of self-defence or national liberation and terrorism. Their reservations were not reflected in the text, but were noted in the final report of the Congress.

In another resolution, the Congress asked that the views of States be solicited on the possible elaboration of new international instruments against organized transnational crime. An instrument such as a convention might cover arrangements for international cooperation at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels, and for the prevention and control of money laundering.

The Crime Congress -- the first held in Africa -- was attended by representatives from 138 countries, 15 intergovernmental and 48 non-governmental organizations, as well as 22 United Nations agencies and programmes. Among the government representatives were 33 Ministers of Justice and six Ministers of the Interior.

* * *

The Second Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) has established an open-ended drafting group to continue preparing a draft action plan to guide the sustainable development of the world's cities, towns and villages. The draft will be considered by the Conference, which will be held in Istanbul in June 1996.

During the Preparatory Committee's two-week session in Nairobi, a working group completed a first reading of the draft action plan. The draft comprises a preamble, a statement of goals and principles, and a set of commitments to be undertaken by governments in support of the objectives of Habitat II. It will be reviewed at the Committee's next meeting in New York in February 1996.

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Notifications are being sent out to 30 East Timorese of various political views to attend the All-Inclusive Intra-East-Timorese Dialogue, which will be held in Austria from 2 to 5 June, according to a United Nations spokesman. The 30 come from within and outside East Timor.

The Dialogue was contemplated in the Geneva communiqué issued after the fifth round of talks between Indonesia and Portugal in January. The sixth round of talks will take place in Geneva on 8 July.

* * *

As of 31 May, Member States owed the United Nations almost $3 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $1.03 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.93 was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $527 million to the regular budget and $676 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed $41 million to the regular budget and $569 million to peace-keeping.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1890
10 May 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General calls on world leaders assembled in Moscow to continue support for United Nations.

+ UNPROFOR says Bosnian Serbs are tightening their grip on Sarajevo; situation in Croatia remains tense in all Sectors.

+ 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference further defers decision on extension of Treaty until Thursday; Democratic People's Republic of Korea says it will not participate in adopting any decision.

+ Special Representative for Cyprus to meet with Cypriot leaders and Greek and Turkish officials during visit to region next week.

+ Eight United Nations staff members abducted in Sudan on Sunday released; captors continue to hold Philippine national.

+ International Narcotics Control Board elects Oskar Schroeder of Germany as its President as fifty-eighth session continues.

+ United Nations agencies and programmes to observe second International Day of Families on 15 May.

+ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to hold eighteenth session in Beirut from 22 to 25 May.

+ United Nations Information Centre in Moscow publishes Russian language volume based on blue book on nuclear non-proliferation.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded his visit to Moscow and departed for Paris. Prior to his departure, the Secretary-General met with United Nations staff at the United Nations Information Centre in the Russian capital. He was also presented with a special medal by the Russian Academy of Sciences, in recognition of the Organization's work for world peace and cooperation.

For information media—not an official record

Yesterday evening, the Secretary-general attended a State reception hosted by the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. A minute of silence was observed in memory of those who perished in the War.

During the dinner, statements were made by President Yeltsin; President Francois Mitterrand of France; Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany; Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom; President Bill Clinton of the United States; and the Secretary-General. In his statement, Mr. Boutros-Ghali called on the leaders assembled in Moscow to continue to support the great enterprise of building a world of peace and cooperation. He expressed the hope that their legacy would be a strong United Nations.

* * *

The situation in Croatia was tense in all Sectors today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He expressed particular concern regarding Sector South, where Croatian troops maintained their presence around United Nations observations posts. Mines were laid around one post, and attempts to resupply it were unsuccessful. A Czech peace-keeper was wounded in the arm by firing in the area yesterday.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has sent two teams of human rights monitors to Sector West. The monitors are working jointly with the United Nations Civil Affairs Department and civilian police in investigating the human rights situation in the Sector. The United Nations has been pressing for monitoring of detention centres there, and of the release of Serbian detainees.

The spokesman said that the Bosnian Serbs appeared to be tightening their grip on Sarajevo. Eight shells were fired into the city today, and a French armoured personnel carrier was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. There were also reports of shooting on Mount Igman and in the Butmir area. Yesterday, the Bosnian Serbs threatened to target any vehicles, other than United Nations and non-governmental organization vehicles, on the Dobrinja route to Sarajevo airport.

* * *

The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has further deferred its decision on the extension of the Treaty until Thursday. Meanwhile, Egypt and several other Arab countries have proposed a draft resolution calling upon Israel to accede without delay to the NPT and to place all its nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The draft also calls upon all States in the region to take practical steps towards the establishment of a verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

In another development, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has said it will not participate in adopting decisions or documents at the

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Conference. In a letter to the President of the Conference dated 9 May, the Democratic People's Republic said that certain countries were "using the Conference" against it, and that the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula had been unreasonably represented.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cyprus, Joe Clark, will visit the region during the week of 15 May, a United Nations spokesman said today. The visit is being undertaken within the framework of the Secretary-General's mission of good offices on Cyprus.

Mr. Clark will confer with officials of the Greek and Turkish Governments, and with leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, with a view to facilitating progress on the basis of possibilities that have emerged in recent months. He will be accompanied by the Deputy Special Representative for Cyprus, Gustave Feissel.

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All but one of nine United Nations staff members abducted in Sudan on Sunday have been released, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. He said negotiations were underway for the release of the remaining staff member, a national of the Philippines. The nine -- two international and two local staff members of the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as five local staff members of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) -- were working for Operation Lifeline Sudan when they were abducted. The 13-man crew of a barge transporting humanitarian goods was also held in the incident.

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, had called for the immediate release of all those abducted. He reiterated that the safety and security of humanitarian workers must be respected under all circumstances and by all parties. Failure to do so could only result in greater suffering for those affected by emergencies, such as the one in Sudan, he said.

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The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has elected Oskar Schroeder of Germany as its President, as it continues its fifty-eighth session in Vienna. Mr. Schroeder served as President of the 13-member independent international treaty body in 1991 and 1992.

The main focus of the current session is identifying weaknesses in the international drug control system. The Board is also reviewing how governments have been living up to their obligations under the three pillars of the system -- the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In view of the

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nature of its deliberations, the Board's sessions are confidential.

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United Nations agencies and programmes are planning a wide range of cultural and informational activities for the observance of the second International Day of Families on 15 May. The Day was designated by the General Assembly in 1993 in order to focus local, national and international attention on the situation of families around the world.

The suggested theme for this year's celebration is "Tolerance Begins in the Family", in view of the observance of 1995 as United Nations Year for Tolerance.

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The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will hold its eighteenth session in Beirut from 22 to 25 May. The Commission will discuss regional cooperation, the impact of a single European market on its members, and other issues.

The session will bring together government ministers from the Commission's 13 members -- Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. It will be divided into two segments: the technical segment, on 22 and 23 May, and the ministerial segment, on 24 and 25ÑMay.

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The United Nations Information Centre in Moscow has published a Russian language volume based on the recently issued "blue book" entitled "The United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation". The publication coincides with the crucial 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The volume includes a full translation of the Secretary-General's inaugural address to the NPT Conference on 17 April. The Treaty is the cornerstone of efforts by the international community to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons while ensuring that the benefits of nuclear technology are available for peaceful purposes.

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Correction The penultimate paragraph of the Daily Highlights of 9 May should have read as follows:

As of 30 April, Member States owed the United Nations almost $3 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $1.03 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.93 was for peace-keeping operations.